

**Remarks:**

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated May 8, 2006. Claims 56-62 and 64-69 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 56-60, 65, and 67-69 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,734,401 to Clark et al. ("Clark et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,059,401 to Wu et al. ("Wu et al.") and U.S. Patent No. 5,801,737 to Sato et al. ("Sato et al.") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Further, the Examiner rejected claim 61 as being unpatentable over Clark et al. in view of Wu et al. and Sato et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,113,228 to Pawlowski, Jr. et al. ("Pawlowski, Jr. et al.") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 64 and 66 as being unpatentable over Clark et al. in view of Wu et al. and Sato et al. and with a further conclusion that features not disclosed in the references are within the ordinary skill in the art. In view of the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

**Claims 56-60, 65, and 67-69**

The Examiner's initial burden to establish a *prima facie* case that claims 56-62 and 64-69 are obvious has not been met. The burden has not been met at least because combining the references as proposed does not disclose each element recited in the claims. Presented below are certain features that are recited in the claims, but that are not disclosed in the cited references.

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Claim 56 recites:

An off-axis printing-fluid container configured to hold a volume of printing fluid, comprising:

a front face including a top edge, a bottom edge, a right edge, and a left edge;

a body including a latching surface spaced rearward the front face, wherein the front face and the body are exterior an inner cavity;

an air interface passing into the inner cavity through the front face proximate the top edge and distal the bottom edge;

a printing-fluid interface passing into the inner cavity through the front face proximate the bottom edge and distal the top edge;

a first recessed portion of the front face intermediate the air interface and the printing-fluid interface and proximate the air interface; and

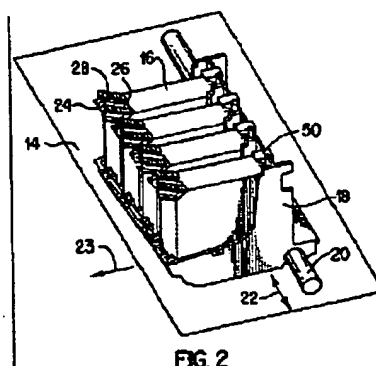
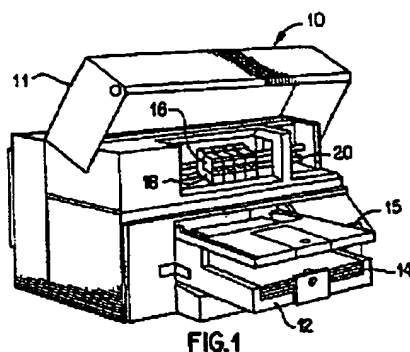
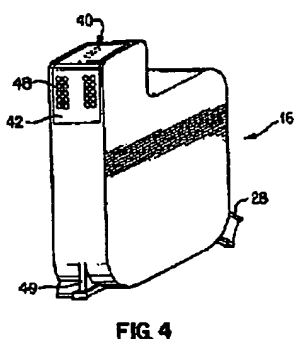
a second recessed portion of the front face intermediate the air interface and the printing-fluid interface and proximate the printing-fluid interface, and wherein the first recessed portion and the second recessed portion extend into the inner cavity.

An off-axis printing-fluid container.

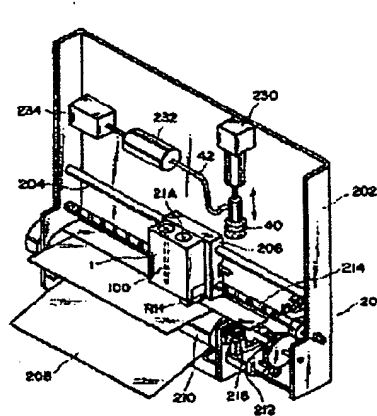
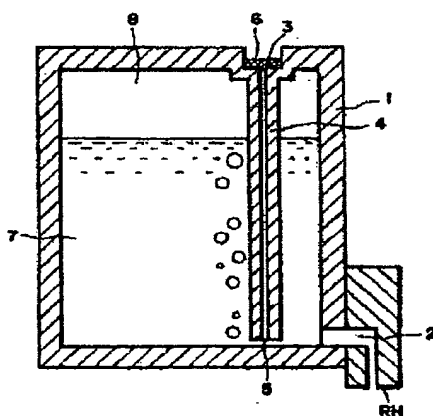
Combining the cited references fails to disclose an off-axis printing container as recited in claim 56. Off-axis containers are distinguished from on-axis containers by where they are mounted on a printing device. An on-axis container is mounted on a carriage and moves in conjunction with a print head. In contrast, an off-axis container mounts on the printer in stationary fashion and is in fluid communication with the moving print head, such as by a flexible tube. The Examiner acknowledges that Clark et al. does not disclose an off-axis printing-fluid container, but cites Wu et al. for disclosure of this feature. However, neither Wu et al. or Sato et al. discloses an off-axis printing-fluid container.

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As shown in the figures above, Wu et al. discloses an on-axis print cartridge whereas claim 56 recites an off-axis printing-fluid container. Indeed, Wu et al. states that "print cartridges 16 are mounted in a scanning carriage 18, [which] is slidably mounted on a rod 20." (Col. 3, ln. 41-2 & 49). Thus, Wu et al. does not disclose an off-axis printing-fluid container as recited in claim 1.



Similarly, as shown in the figures above, Sato et al. discloses an on-axis cartridge in contrast to the off-axis printing-fluid container recited in claim 56. The Examiner cites Fig. 6, which shows an ink container 1 rigidly connected to recording